## CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A process for digesting woodchips used in papermaking comprising:

adding an effective digesting amount of a digesting additive comprising a sultaine to a slurry of woodchips and white liquor.

2. The process of claim 1 wherein the digester additive further comprises a nonionic surfactant, selected from the group consisting of (a) polyglycosides, (b) polyoxyalkylene glycols, and (c) mixtures thereof.

3. The process of claim 1 wherein the amount of digesting additive is from about 0.05% to 1.00% based upon the weight of the woodchips digested.

4. The process of claim 3 wherein the weight ratio of sultaine to nonionic surfactant is from about 10:90 to 90:10.

5. The process of claim 4 wherein the wherein the nonionic surfactant is a polyglycoside and the polyglycoside is an alkyl alkoxy polyglycoside having the following structural formula:

$$R_1O\text{-}(\text{glycosyl})_x$$

where $R_1$ is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkylphenyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylphenyl, and mixtures thereof in which the alkyl groups contain from about 6 to about 30; and x is from about 1.0 to about 10; and glycosyl is a monosaccharide unit.

6. The process of claim 4 wherein the nonionic surfactant is a polyoxyalkylene glycol having the following structural formula:

$$HO\text{-}(EO)_m\text{-}(PO)_n\text{-}(EO)_m\text{-}OH$$

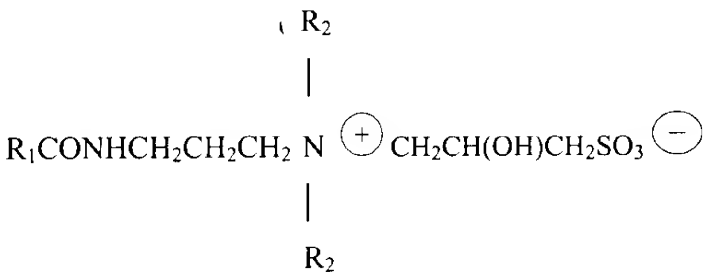
where m, which may be the same or different, is a number from 1 to 50, and n is a number from 10 to 65.

7. The process of claim 4 wherein the nonionic surfactant is a mixture of a polyglycoside and a polyoxalkylene glycol.

8. The process of claim 5 wherein the weight ratio of sultaine to polyglycoside in the surfactant blend is from about 40:60 to 60:40.

9. The process of claim 6 where the weight ratio of sultaine to polyoxyalkylene glycol in the surfactant blend is from about 40:60 to 60:40

10. The process of claim 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, or 9 wherein sultaine is represented by the following chemical structure:



11. The process of claim 10 where the weight ratio of sultaine to nonionic surfactant is from 40:60 to 60:40 and the weight ratio of polyglycoside to polyoxyalkylene glycol in the surfactant blend is from 90:10 to 10:90.

12. The process of claim 11 wherein the amount of pulping woodchips used is from 10 to 40 weight percent based on the weight percent of the white liquor.

13. A digester additive for pulping woodchips comprising:

(a) a sultaine; and

(b) a nonionic surfactant selected from the group consisting of

(1) polyglycosides,

(2) polyoxyalkylene glycols, and

(3) mixtures thereof.

14. The composition of claim 13 wherein the weight ratio of sultaine to nonionic surfactant is from about 10:90 to 90:10.

15. The composition of claim 14 wherein the nonionic surfactant is a polyglycoside and the polyglycoside is an alkyl alkoxy polyglycoside having the following structural formula:

$$R_1O\text{-(glycosyl)}_x$$

where $R_1$ is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkylphenyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylphenyl, and mixtures thereof in which the alkyl groups contain from about 6 to about 30; and x is from about 1 to about 10; and glycosyl is a monosaccharide group, and the polyglycoside is an alkyl and alkoxy polyglycoside.

16. The composition of claim 15 wherein the nonionic surfactant is a polyoxyalkylene glycol having the following structural formula:

$$HO\text{-}(EO)_m\text{-}(PO)_n\text{--}(EO)_m\text{-}OH$$

where m is a number from 1 to 50 , and n is a number from 10 to 65.

17. The composition of claim 16 wherein the nonionic surfactant is a mixture of a polyglycoside and a polyoxalkylene glycol.

18. The composition of claim 17 wherein the weight ratio of sultaine to polyglycoside in the surfactant blend is from about 40:60 to 60:40.

19. The composition of claim 18 where the weight ratio of sultaine to polyoxyalkylene glycol in the surfactant blend is from about 40:60 to 60:40

20. The composition of claim 19 where the weight ratio of sultaine to nonionic surfactant is from 40:60 to 60:40 and the weight ratio of polyglycoside to polyoxyalkylene glycol in the surfactant blend is from 90:10 to 10:90.